

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

June 26, 1961

Ambassador Finletter raised the following with respect to Berlin:

1) Draft Aide-Memoire. Ambassador Finletter said there were various reports, including some in the French press, to the effect that the draft reply to the Soviet Aide-Memoire on Berlin would be ready for NAC consultation this week. Other reports indicated it would not be ready until mid-July. Ambassador Finletter asked for any clarification on timing we could give and for assurance that there would be NAC consultation.

I assured Ambassador Finletter there would be NAC consultation. I said that timing was not certain yet, since comments from the U.K., French and Germans were slow in coming in. I reminded him that he had background information on the substance of our proposed reply.

2) Berlin Contingency Planning. Ambassador Finletter said they were subject to continuing pressure for some indication of the "trends of our thinking" on Berlin Contingency Planning. He said that our message gave them nothing really on the substance. He urged that we try to get as soon as possible at least some indication of the general outlines of our thinking.

I said that this was not possible at the present moment, but that we would do our best. I called attention to Secretary McNamara's press conference, which Ambassador Finletter said they had available, as something which might be of use during the interim.

cc: EUR - Mr. Kohler
 Mr. Tyler
 GCR - Mr. Hillenbrand
 RA - Mr. Magill
 Mr. Tobin
 Mr. Lehmann

RM/R
 Anal. RA
 Rev. RA
 Oct. RA

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